

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8703

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TS, US

SUBJ: US-TUNISIAN JOINT COMMISSION

REF: STATE 72957

1. FOLLOWING IS A SUMMARY DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES
BEING CARRIED OUT IN TUNISIA BY US VOLUNTARY INSTITUTIONS,
AS REQUESTED REFTEL:

A. FORD FOUNDATION: ACTIVE IN TUNIS SINCE 1961 IN NUMEROUS
FIELDS, INCLUDING: (A) ENGLISH TEACHING, ESPECIALLY AT
BOURGUIBA INSTITUTE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES; (B) FAMILY
PLANNING: IN ADMINISTRATION, SURVEYS AND CONSULTATION
AND IN THE PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AND MEDICAL SUPPLIES;
(C) AGRICULTURE, PARTICULARLY SUPPORTING CIMMYT IN
DEVELOPMENT AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW VARIETIES OF WHEAT;
(D) MANAGERIAL TRAINING AND SOCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC
RESEARCH, PARTICULARLY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
TUNISIAN CENTER FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL STUDIES AND
RESEARCH (CERES). FORD HAS APPROXIMATELY 30 PERSONS
EMPLOYED IN TUNISIA (8 AMERICAN AND 22 TUNISIAN) AND
SPENDS APPROXIMATELY \$1.7 MILLION PER YEAR.

B. PROJECT HOPE: IN TUNISIA SINCE 1969 VISIT OF SS HOPE TO
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PROVIDE SOPHISTICATED MEDICAL CARE AND TRAINING FOR

MEDICAL AND PARAMEDICAL PERSONNEL AT CHARLES NICOLE HOSPITAL IN TUNIS, AVICENNE SCHOOL, AND NABEUL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH. EMPLOYS APPROXIMATELY 25 PERSONS, INCLUDING TUNISIANS, AND SPENDS BETWEEN \$0.5 AND \$1 MILLION PER YEAR. HOPE IS EXPANDING ITS PROGRAM AND RECENTLY COMPLETED STUDY OF POSSIBLE AMERICAN-TYPE HOSPITAL AT NABEUL.

C. CARE/MEDICO: ACTIVE IN PROGRAM TO DISTRIBUTE PL 480 TITLE II COMMODITIES TO SCHOOL CHILDREN AND OTHER NEEDY TUNISIANS SINCE 1963. ALSO ACTIVE IN DEVELOPMENT OF ORTHOPEDIC MEDICINE AND IN DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL POTABLE WATER SUPPLIES THROUGH WELL-IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM IN THREE DISTRICTS IN COLLABORATION WITH PEACE CORPS, TUNISIAN MINISTRY OF HEALTH, AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS. THESE ARE FINANCED BY PL 480 SECTION 204 FUNDS. CARE CURRENTLY EMPLOYS 16 PERSONS IN TUNISIA (5 AMERICAN, 11 TUNISIAN).

D. CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES: ACTIVE IN IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD (LARGELY PL 480 TITLE II), PRIMARILY FOR FEEDING PROGRAM FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN AND IN IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF USED CLOTHING AND SHOES. EMPLOYS 6 PERSONS AND SPENDS APPROXIMATELY \$900,000 PER YEAR. (CARE AND CRS PROGRAMS NOW COVER 300,000 SCHOOL CHILDREN AS COMPARED TO 525,000 PREVIOUSLY.)

3. AMERICAN FRIENDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST: OPERATES SCHOLARSHIP AND ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING TESTING AND PLACEMENT SERVICES. EMPLOYS ONE AMERICAN AND TWO TUNISIANS AND SPENT \$22,500 IN 1973-74.

F. INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE SERVICE CORPS: ESTABLISHED IN TUNIS IN 1967 TO PROVIDE EXECUTIVE VOLUNTEERS FOR UP TO THREE MONTHS' TOURS TO PROVIDE SOPHISTICATED HIGH-LEVEL CONSULTATIVE SERVICES TO LOCAL BANKS, INDUSTRIES, AND OTHER BUSINESSES. HAD REACHED PEAK OF 20 VOLUNTEERS IN 1974 BUT NOW VIRTUALLY PHASED OUT OF TUNISIA.

G. AMERICAN FIELD SERVICE: SPONSORS EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES OF APPROXIMATELY 10 TUNISIANS TO US AND 30 AMERICANS TO TUNISIA PER YEAR.

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H. AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE: SPONSORS RELIEF AID IN TUNISIA.

2. HARVARD NUTRITION PROJECT MENTIONED REFTEL IS AID-SPONSORED AND THEREFORE NOT RPT NOT RELEVANT TO THIS LISTING.
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